

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application with Claims 1 and 6 being the independent claims. The above Amendment introduces no new matter and its entry is respectfully requested. Based on the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections, and that they be withdrawn.

Toyouchi in View of Ratcliff Does Not Render the Claims Obvious

Independent Claims 1 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,006,251 to Toyouchi, et al. (“Toyouchi”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,009,467 to Ratcliff, et al. (“Ratcliff”). Office Action at paragraph 5. This rejection is respectfully traversed below.

The Office Action states, and Applicants agree, that Toyouchi fails to teach the “request intercepting component” feature of Independent Claims 1 and 6. See Office Action at paragraph 5. The Office Action goes on, however, to state that such a feature is found in Ratcliff and that “it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the functionality finder as taught in Ratcliff into the enhanced capability locator described in Toyouchi patent because Toyouchi operates with new functionality and Ratcliff suggests the new functions can be found and used to increase functionality.” Office Action at paragraph 6. This is incorrect.

Ratcliff does not explicitly teach or even suggests a “request intercepting component” which provides a new “executable implementation of functionality required for said server component to support said request when said request is not currently supported . . . in a manner hidden from said client component,” as recited in the independent claims. Highlighting this fact is the Ratcliff disclosure states:

In the present invention there are tables existing in the gateway device that are used to make the device aware of all the host/LAN/WAN connections and their special needs. Every time, for example host A is trying to communicate with

host C, the gateway device searches in its table of addresses to find the address of A and C so that communication is carried out successfully. But the gateway device is also aware, through the use of its previously stored information of the type of LAN that is connected to device C, any limitations and particular needs that device C has as well as the type of communication protocol needed for device A to communicate with device C.

...
It is the responsibility of the user to keep this configuration file updated. Any new addition or deletion of hosts must be inputted by the user and there is no way that modifications and alterations can be handled automatically.

Ratcliff, col. 5, lines 34-60 (emphasis added). No “executable implementation of functionality required for said server component to support said request when said request is not currently supported” is taught or suggested.

In sum, given the admission in the Office Action and the failure of Ratcliff to teach or suggest these missing features in a manner properly combinable with Toyouchi with a reasonable expectation of success, the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is improper.

Cobb in View of Chow Does Not Render the Claims Obvious

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,956,506 to Cobb, et al. (“Cobb”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,029,175 to Chow, et al. (“Chow”). Office Action at paragraph 7. This rejection is respectfully traversed below.

The rationale stated in the Office Action for this rejection is that: “it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the new version finder as taught in Chow into the enhanced objects described in the Cobb patent because Cobb operates with new objects and Chow suggests that the new objects can be found to increase functionality.” Office Action at paragraph 6.

The Office Action states, and Applicants agree, that Cobb fails to teach the “request intercepting component” feature of Independent Claims 1 and 6. See Office Action at paragraph 8. The Office Action goes on, however, to state that such a limitation is found in Chow. See Office

Action at paragraph 8. This is incorrect.

The terms “server component” and “client component” should not be confused, respectively, with “server” and “client” as used in Chow. The Chow system relates to automatic retrieval by a “client” (i.e., a Web browser) of objects (i.e., a Web page) from a “server” (i.e., a Web server) when the Web pages have changed. The Chow system requires that the client specify in advance “objects of interests,” then it monitors those Web pages and notifies the client when they have changed. See Chow at col. 5, line 64 - col. 6, line 15. This does not explicitly teach, nor even suggests “a request intercepting component . . . arranged to search external sources to locate and provide to said server component an executable implementation of functionality required for said server component to support said request when said request is not currently supported,” as recited in the independent claims.

In sum, all the limitations of the rejected claims must be taught or suggested by the references. M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. This is not the case here.

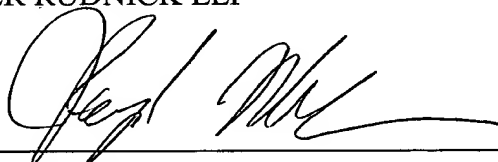
For at least the above-stated reasons, independent Claims 1 and 6 are allowable because they include features not taught or suggested by Cobb and Chow, either alone or in a proper combination. Further, dependent Claims 2-5 and 7-10 are allowable for at least the same reasons set forth herein with respect to independent Claims 1 and 6, and further in view of their own respective features.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone should the Examiner believe that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelber', is written over a horizontal line.

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MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A computer system comprising:

a client component;

a server component, wherein said client component is arranged to make requests to said server component during execution of said client component;

means for maintaining a representation of requests which can be satisfied by said server component; and

a request intercepting component, arranged to intercept requests from said client component to said server component, and to determine from said representation whether a request is supported by said server component; wherein

said request intercepting component is arranged to search external sources to locate and provide to said server component an executable implementation of [additional] functionality [when] required for said server component to support said request when said request is not currently supported; and

said request intercepting component thereafter invoking said request ^b on said server component in a manner hidden from said client component: (

6. (Twice Amended) A computer system comprising:

a client component;

a server component, wherein said client component is arranged to make requests to said server component during execution of said client component;

means for maintaining a representation of requests which can be satisfied by said server component; and

means for intercepting requests from said client component to said server component, and for determining from said representation whether a request is supported by said server component; said intercepting means being arranged to search external sources to locate and provide to said server component an executable implementation of [additional] functionality required for said server component to support said request when said request is not currently supported; and for thereafter invoking said request on said server component in a manner hidden from said client component.